

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15

JUSE-00 MC-02 RSR-01 /097 W
----- 023135

R 221600Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4948

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL BELFAST

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 1121

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PBOR/EI

SUBJ: US FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR IRA

REF: STATE 126118

1. WHEN REFTEL RECEIVED, WE ASKED DONLON IN FONOFF FOR GOI INFO ON US FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO IRA. HE EXPRESSED SOME SURPRISE THAT WE DID NOT ALREADY HAVE FULL INFO. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE WOULD ATTEMPT GIVE US IRISH FIGURES TO SUBSTANTIATE DEEP CONCERN OF GOI (DUBLIN 812). WE ARE AWAITING INFO.

2. IN MEANTIME, "IRISH PRESS" AUG 20 AND 21 CARRIES MOST DETAILED SURVEY SO FAR MADE PUBLIC. (COPY OF ARTICLES AIR-POUCHED TO IRISH DESK.) IN AUG 20 ARTICLE, REPORTER FRANK MCDONALD LISTS USG FIGURES FOR MONEY SENT BY IRISH NORTHERN AID COMMITTEE (NORAIID) IN 18-MONTH PERIOD BEGINNING AUGUST 1971. TOTAL IS ALMOST SIX HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS. MCDONALD SAYS, HOWEVER, THAT US JUSTICE DEPT OFFICIALS BELIEVE ACTUAL AMOUNTS SENT WERE MUCH HIGHER. MCDONALD ESTIMATES TOTAL FLOW AT ONE AND ONE-HALF MILLION DOLLARS SINCE NORAIID FOUNDED IN 1970.

3. LIKE GOI, MCDONALD BELIEVES THAT NORAIID FUNDS HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO PROVISIONAL IRA, WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE HAD CONDUCT "GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE." IN RETURN, HE
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SAYS, NORAIID LEADERS' VIEWS "CARRY CONSIDERABLE WEIGHT" WITH TOP

PROVOS IN DUBLIN AND BELFAST. NORAIID VIEWS ARE MILITANT AND UNCOMMITTING, GOING BACK TO SITUATION OF 50 YEARS AGO. ARTICLE QUOTES A FRANCISCAN NUN, SISTER ST. HUGH, WHO EDITS "MILITANTLY PROVISIONAL 'IRISH PEOPLE' NEWSPAPER." SHE IS CONTEMPTUOUS OF MODERN ATTITUDES IN REPUBLIC, WHERE "THERE IS NO PATRIOTISM ANYMORE."

4. MCDONALD SUGGESTS THAT SOME DISCREPANCIES IN NORAIID ACCOUNTS CAN BE EXPLAINED BY COVERT ARMS PURCHASES. WEAPONS HAVE GONE FROM US TO IRELAND IN SUITCASES OF VACATIONING IRISH-AMERICANS, HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS, AND COFFINS OF THOSE RETURNING FOR BURIAL.

5. ARTICLE ALSO REPORTS THAT RUAIRI O BRADAIGH, HEAD OF PROVO SINN FEIN, RECENTLY SPENT MORE THAN TWO WEEKS IN MAJOR US CITIES ON FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN FOR NORAIID. (WE WERE NOT AWARE OF THIS, BUT HE MAY WELL HAVE AN OLD VISA THAT IS STILL VALID.)

6. COMMENT: MCDONALD'S STORY SEEMS IN LINE WITH GOI BELIEF THAT NORAIID IS THE MAJOR SOURCE OF PROVO'S FINANCIAL SUPPORT. MOORE

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